

to secure candidates, and the honors and burdens would be more equally distributed over the different societies of the country. A certain number of the Board of Directors might be retired each year if the term of office were two years.

A different plan of voting might also be arranged for—that the elections should take place in a separate room with the polls open for a certain number of hours, thereby not delaying the programme or business of the convention.

It would be desirable to incorporate a by-law with reference to the expenses of officers, whether or not any officer shall be salaried, and whether officers incurring expenses in the service of the association shall be reimbursed or bear them themselves.

No officer of the national association should be sent as a delegate from her alumnae association. It is not possible to grant two elective offices to one person.

These are only a few of the points which suggest themselves which were not brought out at the last annual meeting. It is hoped the delegates will come to the next prepared to adopt a constitution which shall be our rule of guidance for the expedition of business for some time to come. Then let every woman "have a mind to work."

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## THE THOMAS WILSON SANITARIUM FOR THE SICK CHILDREN OF BALTIMORE

By J. H. MASON KNOX, JR., M.D.

Physician in Charge

DURING the last few years in many of our large cities much additional interest has been aroused in the problems having to do with the care of infants, including the prevention and treatment of their diseases. The large death-rate among these little people, particularly during the summer heat, has lately only received an attention on the part of the medical profession and the public at all commensurate with its importance. The endeavors to secure pure milk and better housing accommodations for the poor of crowded communities are being multiplied and are saving many lives.

At the Thomas Wilson Sanitarium for Sick Children situated near Baltimore, devoted largely to the care of infants suffering from intestinal diseases prevalent during the summer, the work has been naturally developed along two lines. First and most important, it was sought to take the best possible care of the patients committed to the sanitarium,

making use of the most approved methods of treatment; and, secondly, an effort was made to investigate the nature of these disorders by means of study in the laboratory.

As many of the readers of this JOURNAL are familiar with the general features of the work at Mt. Wilson, mention only will be made of the several lines along which progress has been made during the last two years. It seems particularly fitting that nurses should be familiar with diseases common to children, for in no department of medicine is the daily care and diet of the patient proportionately so important.

#### VOLUNTEER NURSES.

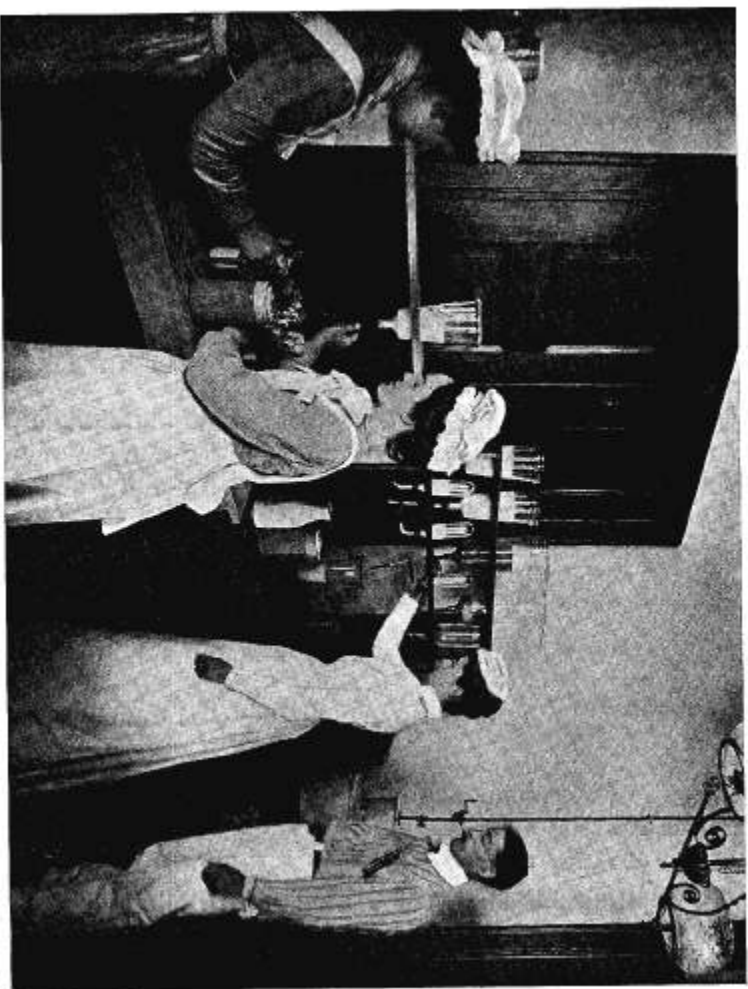
In the summer of 1902 the organization of the nursing force at the sanitarium was somewhat modified. Theretofore graduate nurses about twelve in number, and all equal in rank, had been engaged—wherever they were available—for service under the matron, a nurse. It was then thought that as the service at Mt. Wilson presented unusual opportunities for a nurse to learn much concerning the care of ill children, a part of the nursing could be as effectively done by volunteers, either graduates or seniors in training at recognized schools. This arrangement has been in force for two years and is giving increasing satisfaction.

Each ward is placed in charge of a nurse particularly experienced with children, and her assistants are these volunteer nurses, who serve usually for six weeks, either from June 1 to July 15, or from the latter date to September 1.

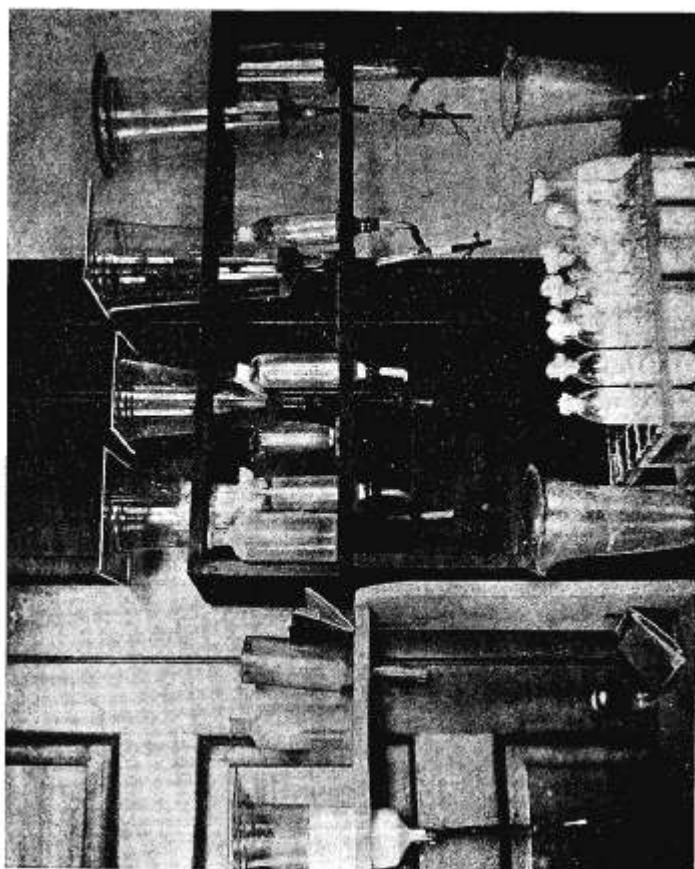
Under a recognized head nurse in the wards discipline is more naturally maintained and the work perhaps more efficiently carried on, as only those nurses care to give up six weeks without compensation who are in earnest and are particularly desirous of learning more about the care of sick infants.

During the summer a number of informal talks are given to the nurses upon subjects pertaining to their work, and they are urged to accompany the staff on the morning visits whenever possible. Last season seven graduates of the Johns Hopkins Training-School did very satisfactory volunteer service at Mt. Wilson. There were also representatives doing good work from St. Luke's Hospital, Richmond; the Home for the Sick, Petersburg, Va.; Roanoke Hospital, Va.; the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, Philadelphia; The Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton, Pa., and several others.

It is felt that a nurse who has had training in a general hospital and who is interested in children can hardly better round out the sum of her knowledge than by a six-weeks' stay at Mt. Wilson.



PREPARING VARIOUS FORMULAE AND FILLING STERILIZED BOTTLES, BEING CAREFULLY ASEPTIC



STERILIZED TUBES, RESERVOIRS, ETC., FOR MILK, WATER, AND VARIOUS  
CEREAL WATERS, ALSO EGG ALBUMEN

#### NURSERY-MAIDS.

A course for the instruction of nursery-maids was started at the sanitarium two years ago. It is aimed to select at the beginning of each season six young women of good common-school education and give them in four months a practical training in the care of infants and older children. These girls learn how to bathe and dress the babies, prepare their nourishment, etc., under the nurse's direction.

A simple text-book is used as a basis of instruction, which is conducted in large part by the matron or one of the head nurses.

These girls are supplied with uniforms, and are expected at the end of the summer to accept situations as nurse-maids in private families.

There are now about half a dozen girls trained at Mt. Wilson who are giving entire satisfaction in families in and about Baltimore. It is hoped that in this way also the sanitarium may become increasingly useful to the community.

#### MILK MODIFICATION.

The room for the modification of the milk, fitted up in 1901, has been used each season since. Here the various percentages of proteid, fat, and sugar are combined in the milk from standard mixtures, and whey and the cereal waters are prepared according to the needs of each baby.

Opportunity is given to both nurses and nursery-maids to become familiar with these methods of infant feeding.

#### DIET OF CONVALESCENT PATIENTS IN THE CITY.

Of late years more attention has been given to the care of the babies returned convalescent to Baltimore. The work of the institution is but partly done when the children who have recovered from severe intestinal diseases are sent back to their homes in the crowded districts and to the impure milk of the corner grocery. Now whenever a child is discharged, the diet and any especial directions necessary are telephoned to the sanitarium nurses in Baltimore, who continue their visits at the home as long as there is any need. This year the sanitarium aided the families of its patients in procuring milk from the Walker-Gordon Laboratory.

#### THE NURSE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Throughout the year a nurse is employed by the sanitarium to visit among the children of the poor of the city. In this way a great deal of immediate good is accomplished and the purposes of the institution are kept fresh in the minds of many families.

## LABORATORY WORK.

The last two years have been particularly busy ones in the laboratory.

Largely through the ingenuity of Dr. V. H. Bassett, pathologist to the sanitarium, and assisted by grants from the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the laboratory has been equipped for pathological and bacteriological work. At the suggestion of Dr. Flexner, of the University of Pennsylvania, at the beginning of the summer of 1902 there was undertaken a systematic examination of the discharges of infants suffering from diarrhoeal disorders. The work was carried on at Mt. Wilson by Dr. A. W. Duval, of the University of Pennsylvania, who had had considerable experience, and by Dr. Bassett.

These investigators, out of fifty-three patients examined, succeeded in isolating the *Bacillus dysenteriae*, Shiga, from the stools in forty-two instances. This organism had been known only for a few years as the cause of a severe variety of dysentery in adults.

An analysis of the cases clinically at the sanitarium showed that the series in which the specific germ was found represented the several varieties of intestinal diseases grouped together as "summer complaint," and led to the confidence that a large proportion of the so-called summer diarrhoeas of infancy are caused by this bacillus.

During last summer the work has been abundantly confirmed not only at Mt. Wilson by Dr. Bassett, but in New York by Dr. Duval and others, and in several other large cities. Now for the first time after many years of investigation methods calculated to check or prevent the great scourge among infants can be placed on a scientific basis.

This summer an immunizing serum prepared under Dr. Flexner's direction was used in a limited number of cases. To some it seemed helpful; to none was it in any way harmful, and it is hoped that this may in the future prove to be a very useful therapeutic measure in the early stage of the disease.

Other work has been carried on in the laboratory of the sanitarium, but perhaps enough has been said to point out the chief directions of our efforts during recent years.

